

DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.



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TO THE
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr.Chairman,Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my report on the
health of the Dulverton Rural District during the year 1951.

The headings are those formulated by the
Ministry of Health.

Chairman:-

Mr.C.H.Abbot,The Cottage,Dulverton.

Vice-Chairman:-

Mr.J.S.W.Arthur,Coppleham,Winsford.

Mr.W.Perry.

Sir R.Waley-Cohen.

Mr.R.B.Vellacott.

Mr.C.J.Purchase.

The Hon.Mrs.Herbert.

Mr.F.T.Barrow.

Mrs.Yandle.

Major J.L.Lindsay.

Mr.A.B.Smalbridge.

Mr.C.F.Avery.

Col.E.R.Clifton.

Mr.A.J.Ayre.

Mr.I.J.Kemp.

Mr.J.F.Clatworthy.

Miss M.W.P.Aston.

Mr.F.H.Beer.

Mr.P.Bawden.

Mr.F.Partridge.

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CLERK TO THE COUNCIL:-

R.W.Halse,Esq.,Solicitor.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:-

(a) Part-time M.O.H:-

Dr.G.Nicholson,M.D.,D.P.H.,F.R.C.S.,E.,

District M.O. and Public Vaccinator :Dr.B.W.Mc.Kinney.

(b) Surveyor & Inspector,etc.,:-

H.A.Jewell,Esq.,A.R.San.I.,M.Inst.S.E.,Diploma University
S.W.(Meat) ,

Assistant Inspector:-

G.O.Jones.Cert R.San.I.,

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Area in acres.....	78,159.
Population 1951 (estimated)	4,540.
Inhabited Houses.....	1,360
Number of inhabited houses as per rate books.....	1,380
Number of families or separate occupiers.....	1,380
Rateable value (reduced)	£19,050
Sum produced by ld. rate.....	£73

SPECIAL CONDITIONS.

Good. The vast majority of the inhabitants are engaged in agricultural pursuits; they appear to be exceptionally healthy in consequence.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1951.

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Live Births.....(Legitimate)	67	36	31)
(Illegitimate)	4	1	3)
			Birth
			3) Rate = 15.8
Deaths.....	57	30	27)
Still Births.....	0	0	0)
			Death
			0) Rate = 12.8
			(Corrected Death Rate = 10.2)
			(Corrected Birth Rate = 17.3)

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER AGE OF ONE YEAR.

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate.....	3	2	1
Illegitimate.....	"	"	"
Deaths from Measles.....	"	"	"
Deaths from Whooping Cough.....	"	"	"
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years).....	"	"	"

Number of women dying of, or in consequence of, childbirth. 1 (From Eclampsia)

The statistics for England and Wales were—Rate per 1,000 of the population:—

Births - Live Births.....	15.5.
Births - Still Births.....	0.36.
Deaths.....	12.5
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births.....	29.6
(Under age of one year)	

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

There are 11 certified T.T. dairies in the district and the standard of the samples obtained from them have been satisfactory.
 Samples for tubercle bacilli were taken at regular intervals from different parts of the district and all were reported free from infection.
 The examination of milk for tubercle bacilli is carried out at the County Laboratory.

ADULTERATION.

The Council are not a Local Authority for enforcing the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.
 Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foodstuffs is submitted to the County Laboratory at Taunton.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During 1951 Dalverton District had cases of Notifiable Disease other than Tuberculosis

VACCINATIONS.

Vaccinations carried out by the M.O.H. during 1951 - Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

	<u>Total Cases</u> <u>notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted</u> <u>to hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Small Pox.....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	5	-	-
Measles.....	10	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	3	-	-
Pneumonia.....	5	-	-
Other Diseases notifiable			
locally e.g. Chicken Pox.....	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	1	-	-
Pneumonia-Of the above cases:-			
2 months,5,21,40 and 56 years.....		5 cases.	

Deaths from Cancer:-

Stomach(Male) 1;Lung(Male) 1;Breast(Female) 1;Uterus..1;
Cancer other regions(Male) 3; Total 7.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken.

HOUSING.

In the past year 11 new houses have been completed and work on further houses proceeds at a satisfactory rate.
Private building licences issued - Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Nursing in the Home.

- (a) Nursing is provided by the Somerset District Nursing Association. There is no co-ordination with the Sanitary Authority.
(b) Infectious Diseases.No provision.

2. Midwives.

None employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.
Number of midwives practising in the Area - 6.

3. Arrangements for the carrying out of Pathological and Bacteriological Investigation, Analysis of Foodstuffs, etc., are made with the Somerset County Laboratory.

4. Hospitals.

There are no hospitals of any description within the Area. Hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases - No change.

5. Maternity and Nursing Homes.

No action has been taken under the Nursing Home Act of 1927.

6. Cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Pyrexia are investigated by the County Authority.

7. Institutional Provision for the care of Mental Defectives-None in the Area.

8. Diphtheria Immunisations and Vaccinations Procedure administered by County Council and carried out at a clinic or by the local doctors at their surgeries.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

To date nine of the largest villages have main supply.
Samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector in various parishes during the year and the results of these are set out in his Report.

2. Drainage.

Dulverton, Brushford and Exford have modern works.
Winsford and Brompton Regis will be sewered as soon as circumstances permit.

3. Rivers and Streams Pollution.
No action was considered necessary.

4. Closet Accomodation.
Improvements in the scattered cottages are constantly being made and every encouragement is given to do this. Many new septic tanks have been installed during the year.

5. Schools.
(1) Kingsbrompton, Dulverton, Exford, Withypool and Brushford are the only schools having flush lavatories. Exton, however, has a piped water supply. There is still room for improvement in the sanitary arrangements to the remainder.
(2) Public Cleansing. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.
(3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.
(4) Eradication of Bedbugs. No action has been required up to the present.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases during 1951.					Mortality.			
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age not known	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	3	-	-	2	1	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. No action.
Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62). No action taken.

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My thanks are due to Mr. Jewell for his assistance in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant,
GEORGE NICHOLSON, M.O.H.

1951.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dulverton Rural District Council:-

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the period from 1st January to 31st December (inclusive) 1951, in accordance with Article 19(12) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1922.

The work of the Authority continues to increase, and even with the help of a qualified assistant employed on a temporary basis, difficulty is experienced in carrying out all the duties required in an efficient manner. Travelling in a scattered district of 79,000 acres occupies much valuable time, but this is unavoidable.

It is not long since a survey was completed of all dwellings in the district. The position showed that many houses were in need of repair. Major difficulties arise in this connection, amongst which is the high cost of repairs in comparison to the rent obtained, where the property is let; the difficulty of owner occupiers, especially those of the working class, to pay for repairs in view of the fact wages in an agricultural community are much less than those in industrial areas and also that any real improvement to a property is followed by an increase in rateable value.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

Defective Cess Pits.....	7
Offensive Accumulations.....	4
Fouled Watercourses.....	2
Dirty Premises.....	4
Bad or Suspected Water Supply.....	26
Overcrowding.....	5
Animals kept in unfit places.....	2
Defective Sanitary Conveniences.....	5
Housing Complaints.....	126
Miscellaneous.....	80
Sewage and Drainage.....	31
Total.....	<u>292</u>

Other than cowsheds.

In addition to those mentioned under Housing Defects.

193 visits were made in connection with these and all were remedied without the necessity of issuing Statutory Notices.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Meat. All slaughterhouses in the district are now closed, slaughtering being done in the Central Abattoir at Minehead, but regular inspections are made of meat arriving at the Butcher Shops.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

Routine Visits.....	63
Occasional Slaughtering.....	Nil

MEAT UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

	Whole Carcase.	Fore Qtrs.	Hind Qtrs.	Head.	Livers.	Lungs.	Heart.	Spleen.
Bovines.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Calves.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pigs.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sheep.	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Milk and Dairies.

The inspection of cowsheds and dairies are now the responsibility of the County and Agricultural Committee. From visits made in the course of other duties it would appear there is still some room for considerable improvement to buildings and general cleanliness. Under the grant aided scheme water supplies are being improved at a reasonable rate.

Milk Sampling.
not pass the required test.

WATER SUPPLY.

All main water schemes under the control of my Council are visited at least once weekly. All the larger villages now have a piped water supply. The Minister has sanctioned the relaying of some mains at Dulverton, Winsford and Brompton Regis and tenders will be invited early in 1952.

SCAVENGING.

The Council make regular collections of house refuse throughout the district, all of which is taken to a central incinerator at Dulverton.

HOUSING.

The rate of progress on new housing during the year has been satisfactory. To date 76 new houses have been completed at Dulverton and outlying villages. Others are in course of construction.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINAGE.

Main works are installed at Dulverton, Brushford and Exford and it is hoped in the future to submit schemes for Winsford, Withypool and Brompton Regis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health enquiries into all cases of Infectious Diseases were at once carried out.

Number of Premises visited.....	7
Number of Rooms Disinfected.....	9

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Petroleum Licences granted during the year.....	46
Amount collected.....	£21.10.0d.

PEST ACT, 1946.

The Council employ a full time Inspector-Operator. Every farm in the district is inspected at regular intervals and it is found this procedure tends to keep the obligations of the occupier under the Act well to the fore. Without frequent servicing the objects of the Act would be defeated and everything is done by this Authority to see this is carried out.

From experience, in this area, it would, in my opinion, be an advantage if the Local Authority could carry out the actual servicing of farms, as I feel they would carry it out more efficiently than is done at present.

Only industrial premises and dwelling houses are now serviced by the Council's operator.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS FOR THE YEAR.

Housing Inspections.....	626
Housing re-inspections.....	429
Inspection of Meat and other foods.....	50
Factories and Workshops.....	17
Infectious Diseases.....	7
Visits in connection with Nuisances and Complaints.....	41
Visits in connection with rats and mice.....	2000
Miscellaneous Visits.....	80
(a) Water Sampling.....	47
(b) Water Supplies and Sewerage Disposal, etc.....	339
	<u>3636</u>

CONCLUSION.

I desire once again to express my thanks to the Chairman, Councillors and Medical Officer for their consideration and support given to me during the past year, also to the Clerk and his staff for their co-operation in the work of this department.

Dulverton,
Somerset.

January, 1952.

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I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
HORACE A. JEWELL.
Surveyor & Inspector.

